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# **ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

## **DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**

### **NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner*  
*Jeff Regnart, Director*



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Date: April 9, 2012  
Time: 4:45 p.m.

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#### **CALL FOR VESSEL OWNERS AND PERMIT HOLDERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NORTHERN SOUTHEAST INSIDE WATERS SABLEFISH LONGLINE SURVEY**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) intends to use three chartered commercial fishing vessels to conduct a longline survey assessing relative abundance of sablefish in the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict in July 2012. Chartered longline vessels will be contracted for up to 14 days beginning on July 24, 2012. This survey involves taking sablefish outside of the fishing season and NSEI permit holders participating in the survey will be authorized to sell an amount of sablefish equal to their 2012 Personal Quota Share (PQS).

The department will charter three vessels to conduct the survey, and based on the amount of sablefish anticipated to be taken during the survey, can accommodate up to nine NSEI sablefish permit holders during the survey. Chartered vessels will be required to have at least one NSEI sablefish permit holder on board during survey operations and participating vessel owners are strongly encouraged to accommodate additional permit holders onboard during the survey. Participating permit holders must be present on the vessel while their PQS is being harvested, but they have the option to disembark once their PQS is offloaded and recorded on a fish ticket (i.e. during the mid-trip offload to a tender).

The survey encompasses 15 sets each in the northern and middle portions and 14 sets in the southern portion of Chatham Strait. Chartered vessels will fish one of three survey portions as assigned by the department. The survey is expected to require approximately seven or eight days of fishing and travel time, but weather or mechanical problems could extend this time. Interested vessel owners must provide a vessel captain with a minimum of three years experience operating a vessel in the NSEI commercial sablefish fishery. In addition, three crew members each with a minimum of three years commercial longlining experience must be provided. The department will provide bait, hooks, and longline skates used on the survey. Survey vessels will be responsible for fuel and all other fishing gear.

Two department employees will be deployed on each chartered vessel to collect survey data. Meals and accommodations for each department employee onboard the vessel will be provided by each contract vessel for the duration of the survey. Chartered vessels must provide evidence of having successfully completed a United States Coast Guard Commercial Fisheries Vessel Safety Inspection in the 12 months preceding the start of the survey.

Permit holders and vessel owners interested in participating in the survey are requested to notify the department no later than 5:00 p.m. April 23, 2012. The department will provide bid packets to interested vessel owners and will randomly select permit holders from the pool of interested parties.

For further information please contact Forrest Bowers, (907) 465-1191, [forrest.bowers@alaska.gov](mailto:forrest.bowers@alaska.gov), or Kristen Green, (907) 747-2683, [kristen.green@alaska.gov](mailto:kristen.green@alaska.gov).

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